

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-10 and add new claims 11-16 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A device ~~Device~~ for actuating a sliding closure $[(3)]$ applied to a vessel $[(1)]$ containing molten metal once the vessel $[(1)]$ has been positioned on a ladle rotating tower, with a piston/cylinder unit $[(10)]$ that
5 can be introduced into a holding element $[(4)]$ of the sliding closure $[(3)]$, comprising a drive shaft $[(11)]$ that can be coupled to a slide rod of the sliding closure, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the piston/cylinder unit $[(10)]$ can be introduced into the holding element $[(4)]$ and withdrawn from the same by
10 means of a controllable manipulator $[(20)]$.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the piston/cylinder unit $[(10)]$ is arranged on a lifting frame $[(26)]$ of the manipulator $[(20)]$ affixed to the ladle rotating tower and can
5 be introduced into a guide groove $[(5)]$ of the holding element $[(4)]$ transversely in a vertical direction in relation to the displacement direction of the sliding closure by adjusting the same with a guide element $[(12)]$.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein means for positioning the lifting frame [(26)] in relation to the holding element [(4)] during the adjusting of the same and prior to introducing the
5 guide element [(12)] into the guide groove [(5)] are envisaged.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 2 ~~or 3, characterised in that~~ , wherein the piston/cylinder unit [(10)] is affixed to a vertically adjustable lifting frame [(26)] of the manipulator [(20)] and can be introduced into a
5 holding element [(4)] open at the bottom and equipped with the guide groove [(5)] with its guide element [(12)].

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the lifting frame [(26)] is affixed to a lifting part [(24)] that can be vertically adjusted in relation to a rotating part [(22)] of the
5 manipulator [(20)], whereby the rotating part [(22)] is tiltably positioned around a vertical axis [(B)] within a rotating housing [(21)] affixed to the ladle rotating tower.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rotating part $[(22)]$ with the lifting part $[(24)]$ equipped with the lifting frame $[(26)]$ guided within the same can be tilted between a parking position and a working position, whereby the piston/cylinder unit $[(10)]$ can be introduced into the holding element ~~(4), i.e.~~ ~~pushed out of the holding element (4) in the working position.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rotating part $[(22)]$ can be tilted by almost 90° between the parking position and the working position.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 3 ~~and one of the Claims 4 to 7, characterised in that~~ , wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame $[(26)]$ are formed by two positioning bolts $[(27)]$ affixed to the holding frame $[(26)]$ and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding element $[(4)]$, which can each be introduced into a vertical recess $[(29)]$ open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element $[(4')]$ during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the positioning bolts ~~[[27]]~~ are equipped with ball heads ~~[[28]]~~ at their free ends, and can be centered together with these within
5 funnel-shaped introduction part ~~[[29']]]~~ of the recesses ~~[[29]]~~ that widen at the bottom.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 8 ~~or 9, characterised in that~~ , wherein the positioning bolts ~~[[27]]~~ of the piston/cylinder unit ~~(10), i.e. their guide element (12)~~ can be offset in the direction of the sliding
5 closure ~~[[3]]~~ and located at both sides of the same.

Claim 11 (New). The device according to Claim 3, wherein the piston/cylinder unit is affixed to a vertically adjustable lifting frame of the manipulator and can be introduced into a holding element open at the bottom and equipped with the guide
5 groove with its guide element.

Claim 12 (New). The device according to Claim 4, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding element, which can

- 5 each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

Claim 13 (New). The device according to Claim 5, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding element, which can
5 each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

Claim 14 (New). The device according to Claim 6, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding element, which can
5 each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

Claim 15 (New). The device according to Claim 7, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding element, which can

- 5 each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

Claim 16 (New). The device according to Claim 9, wherein the positioning bolts of the piston/cylinder unit can be offset in the direction of the sliding closure and located at both sides of the same.